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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5520**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on State & Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Patterson, Horn, Haugen, Spanel, Kohl-Welles, Gardner and Winsley)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to information about ballot measures; amending  
2 RCW 29.81.250; and adding a new section to chapter 29.79 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29.79  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The office of financial management, in consultation with the  
7 secretary of state, the attorney general, and any other  
8 appropriate state or local agency, shall prepare a fiscal impact  
9 statement for each of the following state ballot measures: (1) An  
10 initiative to the people that is certified to the ballot; (2) an  
11 initiative to the legislature that will appear on the ballot; (3)  
12 an alternative measure appearing on the ballot that the  
13 legislature proposes to an initiative to the legislature; (4) a  
14 referendum bill referred to voters by the legislature; and (5) a  
15 referendum measure appearing on the ballot. Fiscal impact  
16 statements must be written in clear and concise language and avoid  
17 legal and technical terms when possible, and may include easily  
18 understood graphics.

1 A fiscal impact statement must describe any projected increase  
2 or decrease in revenues, costs, expenditures, or indebtedness that  
3 the state or local governments will experience if the ballot  
4 measure were approved by state voters. Where appropriate, a fiscal  
5 impact statement may include both estimated dollar amounts and a  
6 description placing the estimated dollar amounts into context. A  
7 fiscal impact statement must include both a summary of not to  
8 exceed one hundred words and a more detailed statement that  
9 includes the assumptions that were made to develop the fiscal  
10 impacts.

11 Fiscal impact statements must be available online from the  
12 secretary of state's web site and included in the state voters'  
13 pamphlet.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.81.250 and 1999 c 260 s 5 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of  
17 the voters' pamphlet. The secretary of state shall print the  
18 pamphlet in clear, readable type on a size, quality, and weight of  
19 paper that in the judgment of the secretary of state best serves  
20 the voters. The pamphlet must contain a table of contents. Federal  
21 and state offices must appear in the pamphlet in the same sequence  
22 as they appear on the ballot. Measures and arguments must be  
23 printed in the order specified by RCW 29.79.300.

24 The voters' pamphlet must provide the following information for  
25 each statewide issue on the ballot:

26 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial  
27 designation or number;

28 (2) The official ballot title of the measure;

29 (3) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the  
30 law as it presently exists;

31 (4) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the  
32 effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;

33 (5) The fiscal impact statement prepared under section 1 of  
34 this act;

35 (6) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure  
36 in the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has  
37 been passed by the legislature;

1        (~~(6)~~) (7) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the  
2 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing  
3 argument;

4        (~~(7)~~) (8) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the  
5 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing  
6 argument;

7        (~~(8)~~) (9) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be  
8 followed by the names of the committee members who submitted them,  
9 and may be followed by a telephone number that citizens may call  
10 to obtain information on the ballot measure;

11        (~~(9)~~) (10) The full text of each measure.

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